



IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

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work... IBC works on insur- ance improve-

ments - For the past five months the IBC has been actively working with the USDA Risk Management Agency on improvements to barley crop insurance, which includes a brand **NEW MALTING BARLEY REVENUE POLICY** that should be available in 2016 and remedies to insurance gaps identified in the wake of this year's serious quality losses. We have provided RMA with several ideas on how to remedy existing gaps and we have asked them to establish a working group to **prioritize changes to the Small Grains Quality Loss Adjustment Procedures.**

Producer education webinars

Here is a link to several excellent producer webinars...

University of Idaho Extension - NEW Farm Bill Program Details

ARC/PLC Overview presented by UI Extension Educator Ben Eborn - <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p1q15wwoiv5/>

Estimation Tool Overview presented by UI Extension Educator Joel Packham - <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p86x3jp41fk/>

Farm Bill Tool Overview presented by UI Extension Educator Ben Eborn - <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p4jrjw689pa/>

Idaho Barley Commission

2015 U.S. Economic & Grain Market Outlook presented Jan. 16, 2015 by Doug Robison, Senior Vice President for Northwest Farm Credit Western Idaho & Kelly Olson, Idaho Barley Commission at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p2eho2r9lo0/>

Understanding the Idaho Harvest 2014 Weather Events and Winter 2015 Weather Outlook presented Nov. 19, 2014 by the Idaho Barley Commission and National Weather Service at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p9az3133g4g/>

Idaho Wheat Commission

Farm Income Tax Changes presented by Jerry Brown, accountant and Idaho Wheat Commissioner at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p32leufe3rz/>

Managing Fusarium Head Blight in Small Grains presented by Dr. Juliet Marshall, UI Cereal Pathologist at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p8ykg93p4pz/>

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Barley Agronomist Corner

Christopher W. Rogers, Ph.D.

University of Barley Agronomist based at the Aberdeen Research & Extension Center, Aberdeen, ID.



We have turned the corner on the New Year and there are numerous UI extension workshops across the state focused on the new farm bill, crop insurance, and farm management that are occurring or have occurred this month. In addition to these events, the UI Extension Cereal Schools in southern Idaho will be held the 1st week of February. These schools will provide you the opportunity to hear current updates on variety testing, water management/sustainability practices, integrated pest management, and nutrient management. I hope you will be able to attend these, and we look forward to seeing and speaking with as many growers as possible at these meetings. In addition to these extension events, I recently attended the National Barley Improvement Committee meeting where current research updates were presented by scientists and industry personnel from across the nation concerning new developments in barley varieties, disease factors, and sustainability initiatives. As we approach planting, I am searching for interested growers to participate in research focused on improving fertilizer management strategies. During the first year of this work, I am looking for growers who are willing to allow us to collect soil samples prior to fertilization and planting in their fields to test the applicability of new soil test methods for Idaho. If you are interested in participating in this study, I encourage you to contact me either by phone (208-397-4181) or email (cwrogers@uidaho.edu). I look forward to hearing from you, and I am excited about the potential of this project to provide valuable insight to you the grower. I have also started a Twitter account (@UIbarley) where I will be sending Tweets focused on research updates, extension events, and progress of the program. I hope you will find this a valuable resource to keep current with the Barley Agronomy program at the University of Idaho. Finally, we look forward to hearing from you, as the feedback and contributions from all growers, county extension personnel, consultants, and barley industry stakeholders are crucial for creating a productive research and extension program to address the current needs of Idaho growers.

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Mini-Cassia Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project

Contributed by Doreen McMurray, Information & Education Specialist, East & West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District

Farmers are asking "What can be done to keep the topsoil in place?" "How can we control soil erosion caused by wind or water?" Or, "How can I create healthier soil without chemicals?" The conservation districts in Cassia and Minidoka Counties have pulled together to organize the **Mini-Cassia Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project** which will provide answers to these issues.

The Soil Districts have applied for and received a grant which will make available 2 large direct seed drills and some cover crop seed mix so that farmers can try out the new direct seed and cover crop procedures. The grant includes an educational component which includes soil health workshops, participation in Crop Schools, Demo Days, and other educational activities.

The Districts were awarded the grant in July. And, with financial partnership from Idaho Fish and Game, Pheasants Forever, Mid- Snake RC&D., Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Soil and Water Commission, Soil Districts were able to purchase the two large direct seed drills which will be available for farmers to rent spring of 2015.

The direct seed drills will cost \$80 a day + \$14 per acre to rent. Lease agreements and insurance information will be available in both the Burley and Rupert NRCS offices by February. Information will also be available by calling 208-436-4202 or information can be sent out by email from mswcd@gmail.com, or found on the east cassia and west cassia soil and water conservation district Facebook page.

Renting and implementing a Direct Seed/Cover Crop Project can provide land owners the opportunity to experiment and learn about cover crop procedures which will help lessen erosion issues and promote healthy soil.

The constant reduction of the water table is both alarming and frightening. Planting Cover Crops improves the water holding capacity in soil, providing an additional benefit to farmers. Using a variety of seeds in a cover crop provides many benefits to the soil including added nutrients and greater moisture holding capacity. Each seed species answers a specific soil need. Diversity in the mix spreads out the risk and addresses several issues at once.

Implementing a Direct Seed / Cover Crop project allows your cash crops to be grown with Less soil disturbance, increased water and organic matter in the soil, decreased erosion, controls weeds naturally, and increases nutrients in the soil.

The Soil Districts are holding a Soil Health Workshop on Wednesday, February 4th at the Cassia County Courthouse, Cassia County Commissioner's Chambers.

Topics addressed at the workshop include: Direct Seed Projects, Cover Crops and their effect on Soil Productivity, Testimonials from farmers currently using cover crops, information on seed mixes, lease agreements, and Food Security Act and Farm Bill requirements. Registration begins at 8:30 am, includes lunch, and will run until 2:00 pm. You must RSVP to Doreen at 208-878-5556.

More on Webinars, continued from page 1

Sponsored by the Idaho Wheat Commission

Herbicide Use in Fallow Years presented by Dr. J Earl Creech at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p328nga3yuz/>

Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus presented by Dr. Arash Rashed at

<http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p87mmbwcpoa/>

IWC Direct Seed Workshop - Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls, ID, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm March 11, 2015

DIRECT SEEDING 101

HIGH RESIDUE FARMING IN IRRIGATED CROPPING SYSTEMS

Guest Speaker: Any McGuire, Washington State University Extension

CROPPING SYSTEMS FROM ALFALFA TO NO-TILL CORN & GLYPHOSATE USAGE - Guest Speaker: Earl Creech, Utah State University Extension

CROP ROTATION AND SOIL HEALTH

Guest Speaker: Tracy Preet Pulse Specialist, Agri-Trend

WHAT WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW ABOUT WIREWORMS

Guest Speaker: Arash Rashed, UI

Contact: Tereasa Waterman at ts@idahowheat.org or call (208) 334-2353.